**LTC to retired employees**

†2512. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing special facilities for the purpose of travelling to retired senior citizen of Central Government; and

(b) what arrangements are being made to provide the same concessions to such people as they were availing while in service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Fifth Central Pay Commission, after considering the representations received by it, did not recommend the extension of LTC facility to Central Government Pensioners in view of the enormous financial implications involved. Government accepted the recommendation after due consideration. The Ministry of Railway, however, extends concession on train fares to all senior citizen above the age of 60 years.

**Co-terminus staffs**

2513. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff working on co-terminus basis with Ministers and in various Bodies/Government organizations are eligible for appearing in departmental tests held there from time to time;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria/guidelines of Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to formulate a policy for eligibility of such candidates for departmental tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The eligibility of in-service personnel, appointed on co-terminus basis on the personal staff of dignitaries, such as members of the Union Council of Ministers, for appearing in departmental tests is determined in accordance with the provisions of the relevant recruitment rules applicable to them in their parent service. The outsiders, appointed on co-terminus basis are not eligible to appear in the departmental tests, as they do not

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

belong to any particular service. There is no proposal for making such outsiders eligible for departmental tests.

**Recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee**

2514. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee that looked into regional imbalances; and

(b) the steps Government have taken as a follow up, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Dr. Nanjundappa Committee has made 95 recommendations to redress regional imbalances and identified 114 backward taluks in the State of Karnataka. The Committee has recommended a Rs. 16,000 crores special development plan for these backward taluks of which Rs. 9600 crores for Northern Karnataka and Rs. 6400 crores for Southern Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka have constituted a cabinet sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister to look into the recommendations and their implementation.

**Proposal for increasing the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh**

†2515. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from the ten districts of Madhya Pradesh having developrnent at par with the national level, there are backward districts also in the State that have acute shortage of infrastructure;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Planning Commission for increasing the number of districts; and

(c) if so, the action to be taken by Planning Commission thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Backward Regions Grant Fund has been announced for establishment in the current financial year 2005-06. The coverage of any

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.